

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the above-captioned application. The Examiner issued a restriction requirement in the Office Action in which it is urged that there are five separate and distinct inventions claimed in this application. In response, Applicants elect the group I invention as set forth in claims 1-14.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims at a later time.

Applicants make the election without traverse.

Further, Applicants were required to elect a single compound or peptide fragment as the compound of the applicable elected Group, as drawn to the elected invention. In response, Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that each peptide constitutes a different invention. It is normal practice in the field for peptides having a particular sequence or partial sequence to have particular targeting properties – as long as the recognition sequence is present. Thus, significant numbers of peptides can form part of the same invention (e.g. be useful for *in vivo* diagnostic imaging of the same target). However, in the interest of expediting the prosecution of the instant application, Applicants elect Compound 5 (see Table on page 16). The peptide sequence is NQEQVSPYTLLKG, which is a fragment of α_2 -antiplasmin (see page 6 lines 5-13).

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the remarks herein, Applicants believe that each ground for rejection or objection made in the instant application has been successfully overcome or obviated. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and objections, and allowance of the current application are respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/674,616
Amdt. Dated July 30, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2004

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any issues that might arise and to promote the efficient examination of the current application.

Respectfully submitted,



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